Great Lakes Levels Update No. 28
3 November 1987

Overall, the Great Lakes basin, except for Lake Ontario, received slightly above average rainfall in October, not enough to counteract the drying trend that started in late 1986. Consequently, high levels continue to diminish on the middle Great Lakes.

All of the Great Lakes are in their seasonal decline. As is apparent on the attached Bulletin, Lakes Michigan-Huron and Erie experienced almost no summer rise in levels this year, due to the below-average rainfall since the end of 1986. This has caused the levels of Lakes Michigan-Huron to approach average levels at a rapid rate. They now are less than 1 foot above the long-term average for October, whereas the June levels were about 1.5 feet above the long-term average. However, Lakes St. Clair and Erie levels have improved at a much slower rate. They were about 1.7 feet above average for June and they are now 1.3 feet above average for October. On Lakes Michigan-Huron, St. Clair and Erie, some caution is appropriate for the fall and coming spring storm seasons.

With Lake Superior below its long-term average level, and Lakes Michigan-Huron above their long-term average level, the Lake Superior outflow is at the minimum rate allowed by the regulation plan, that is, 55,000 cubic feet per second (cfs). The Lake Ontario level is below its long-term average and the outflows are as prescribed by Regulation Plan 1958-D.

In view of the improved situation, the Advance Measures Program to construct preventative works will continue only to complete projects underway: four in number.

The Corps is also authorized to assist local communities in responding to actual flooding, supplementing maximum state and local efforts. Requests for assistance should be directed through local and state disaster assistance agencies. For Great Lakes basin technical assistance or information, please contact one of the following Corps of Engineers District offices:

For New York, Penn. & Ohio:

Colonel Daniel R. Clark
Cdr, Buffalo District
1776 Niagara Street
Buffalo, NY 14207-3199
(716) 876-5454, Ext. 2201

For Mich., Minn. & Wisc.:

Colonel Robert F. Harris
Cdr, Detroit District
P.O. Box 1027
Detroit, MI 48231-1027
(313) 226-6440 or 6441

For Ill. & Indiana:

LTC Jess J. Franco Jr.
Cdr, Chicago District
219 S. Dearborn St.
6th Floor
Chicago, IL 60604-1797
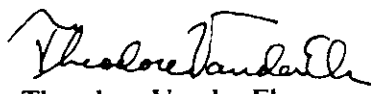**(312) 353-6400**

The *"Help Yourself"* brochure is still available at District Offices listed above or this office: North Central Division, 536 South Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois 60605-1592, telephone: (312) 353-6364.

Near-shore wave warnings are provided by various National Weather Service Offices for certain portions of the Great Lakes. Information can normally be heard on the National Weather Service's local weather radio broadcasts. The Corps of Engineers' "Self Help" program of distributing sandbags, sand and plastic sheeting to flood-threatened communities is continuing. In view of the current and predicted levels, it is our intention to continue the program through next spring. Local or state disaster assistance agencies can be contacted for materials and assistance under this program.

The IJC's Great Lakes study on level fluctuations continues with development of study plans. A Great Lakes Levels Workshop will be held on the afternoon of November 17, 1987, at the Radisson Hotel in Toledo, Ohio. The IJC will review governmental actions and programs undertaken during the current high level situation and progress to date on the study under the August 1, 1986 Reference from the governments. The public is invited to attend this workshop. More information on the workshop and the study are available from both the U.S. and Canadian Section Offices of the IJC: in the United States, the address is International Joint Commission, 2001 'S' Street, NW, 2nd Floor, Washington, D.C., 20440, or phone number (202) 673-6222.

These updates will continue to accompany the Monthly Bulletin until all the lakes approach long-term seasonal averages.

Theodore Vander Els
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding